



BAIRNSDALE TO ORBOST RAILWAY

A railway that linked and served isolated communities

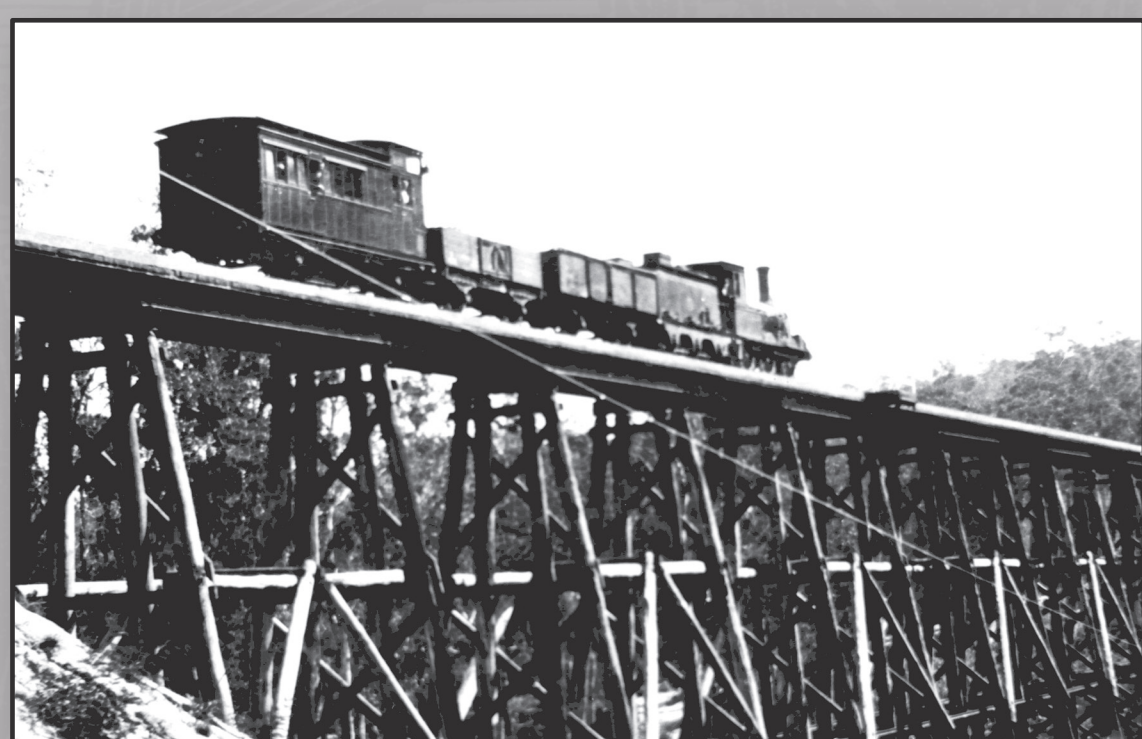
Engineering Heritage Marker placed on 21 August 2016

The Bairnsdale to Orbost Railway was an engineering challenge, crossing difficult rivers and creeks and passing through isolated forest country.

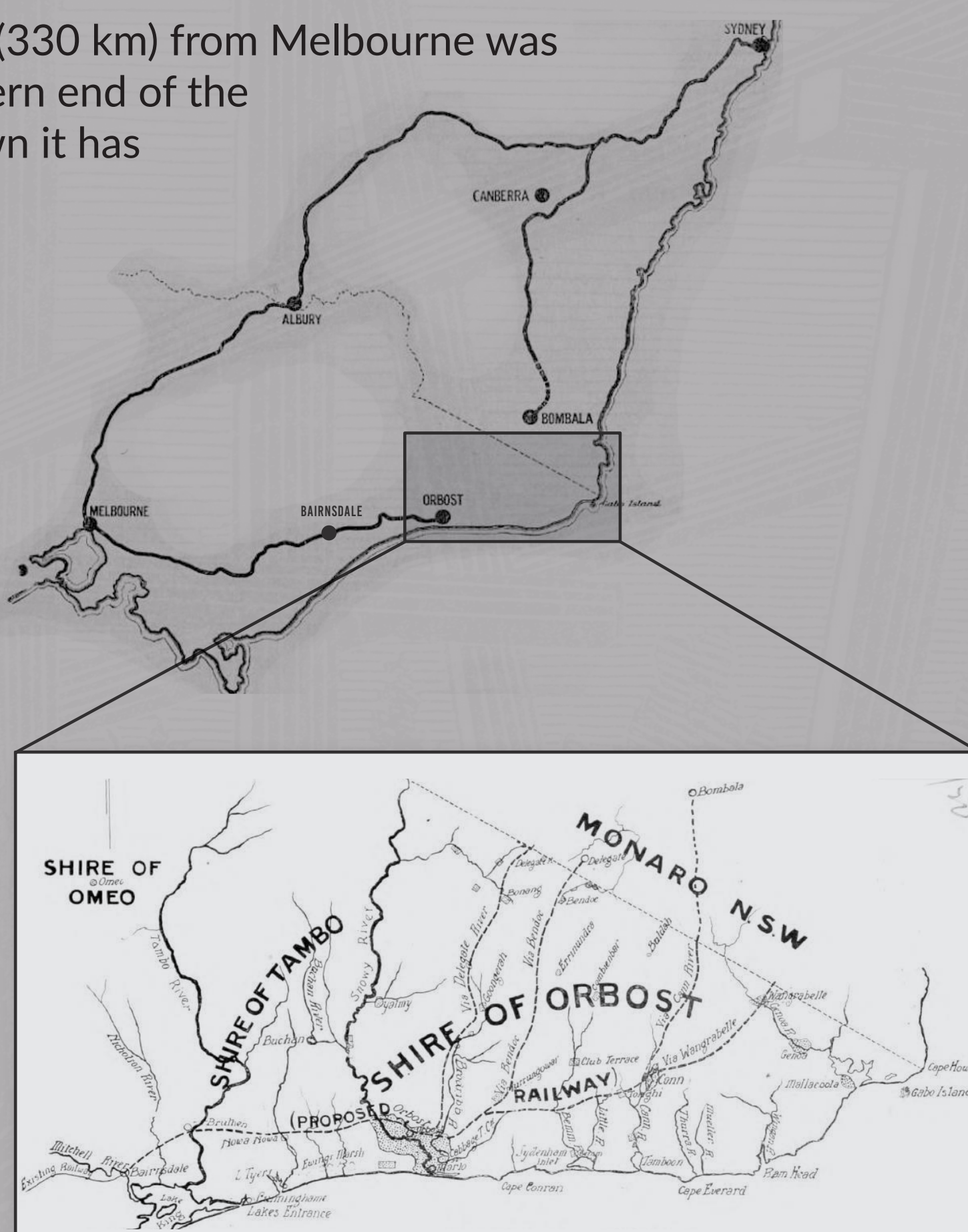
It was built to develop a remote part of Victoria, to link isolated communities and provide them with transport to get their produce to market and to obtain the necessities of life. Local advocates proposed that the railway should be extended to Bombala in New South Wales, creating a second link between Melbourne and Sydney however the railway was never built beyond Orbost.

The ceremony to unveil this marker was held in the centenary year of the opening of the railway (1916) and on the same date, 21 August, as the last train to depart Orbost before the railway was closed in 1987.

The recently discovered milepost marked 205 miles (330 km) from Melbourne was originally located closer to the railway near the eastern end of the Stony Creek Bridge. As its exact location is not known it has been re-erected below this marker.



Train on Stony Creek Bridge, 1918.
Image: Public Records Office Victoria.



Map shows the 1908 railway extension plan by the Orbost and East Gippsland Railway League to create a connection between Bairnsdale and Bombala in New South Wales.
Image: Orbost and East Gippsland Railway League.

